GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2346
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2015
Import of Foreign made Crackers
Puttaraju Shri C.S.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) whether the import and sale of foreign-made crackers in India is illegal and if so, the details thereof;

b) whether a large number of Chinese crackers have been imported clandestinely and sold in Indian markets despite the warning issued by the Government in this regard; and

c) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government to stop such imports in future and against those who are involved in illegal import of Chinese crackers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) : Fireworks are covered under Indian Trade (Harmonized System) classification [ITC (HS)] code 36041000. Import policy of 'fireworks' is 'restricted' and no importer can import fireworks without a license/authorization from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). So far, no license/authorization has been issued by DGFT. Further, possession and sale of fireworks of foreign origin in India is illegal and punishable under the Law.

(b) & (c): As per the official data, no import has taken place under the HS Code-36041000 (fireworks) from China or any other country during the last three years and current year (up to September 2015). Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), under the Central Board of Excise & Customs, has issued alert circulars to sensitize the Customs field formations and also the Chief Secretaries and the Directors General of Police of various State Governments on the issue. As a result, Customs Department has detected and seized illegal imports. In the year 2015-16 (upto October, 2015), the quantity of seized firecrackers was approximately 315 MT. The seizure of clandestinely imported fireworks by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and Customs Authorities and action taken under Explosives Rule , 2008 will act as deterrent.

Government has also been issuing press notices in English, Hindi and vernacular languages in National and Regional papers on a regular basis during the festive season, for the past two years, informing the public that possession and sale of fireworks of foreign origin in India is illegal and punishable under the law and that information about possession and/ or sale of such fireworks may be reported to the nearest police station for suitable action.
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